WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video conference platform for transmitting and receiving audio and video signals to and from other video conference platforms, comprising:

a display for displaying video generated at a selected one of a remote camera and a local camera;

an input device operable to generate input signals, said input signals used in part to position a cursor on said display; and

a processor coupled to said display and said input device, said processor operable to receive said input signals and to effect pan, tilt, and zoom of video from the selected camera based on said cursor's position.

2. The video conference platform of Claim 1, wherein said video is displayed full-screen on said display.

3. The video conference platform of Claim 1, wherein said video is displayed in a window on said display.

4. The video conference platform of Claim 3, and further comprising an object icon displayed on said display, said processor operable to transmit to another video conference platform data represented by said object icon upon movement of said object icon to said window with said input device.

5. The video conference platform of Claim 1, wherein said display includes a zoom area and a pan/tilt area, said processor operable to cause said video from the selected camera to zoom when said cursor is in said zoom area, said processor operable to cause said video

from the selected camera to pan and tilt when said cursor is in said pan/tilt area.

6.   The video conference platform of Claim 1, wherein said input device is a computer mouse.

7.   The video conference platform of Claim 1, said processor further operable to display a tool bar on said display, said tool bar including a remote/local icon for use with said input device to select between said remote camera and local camera for said displayed video.

8.   The video conference platform of Claim 1, and further comprising a speaker for broadcasting audio, and wherein said processor is further operable to display a tool bar on said display, said tool bar including a speaker icon for use with said input device to control said speaker's volume.

9.   The video conference platform of Claim 1, and further comprising a plurality of microphones for detecting audio, and wherein said processor is further operable to display a tool bar on said display, said tool bar including a microphone icon for use with said input device to select among said microphones.

10.   The video conference platform of Claim 1, and further comprising an alternative source of local video, and wherein said processor is further operable to display a tool bar on said display, said tool bar including a video icon for use with said input device to select between said local camera and said alternative source of local video.

11.   The video conference platform of Claim 1,
wherein said processor is further operable to display a
tool bar on said display, said tool bar including a zoom
icon for use with said input device to zoom the selected
5   camera.

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12.   A method of controlling a video conference, comprising:

   displaying video generated at a selected one of a remote camera and a local camera on a display;

   positioning a cursor on the display; and

   panning, tilting, and zooming video from the selected camera based on the cursor's position.

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13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein displaying video comprises displaying full-screen video.

14.   The method of Claim 12, and further comprising displaying the video in a window on the display.

15.   The method of Claim 14, and further comprising:

   displaying an object icon on the display;

   moving the object icon to the window; and

   transmitting to a video conference platform data represented by the object icon.

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16.   The method of Claim 12, wherein the display includes a zoom area and a pan/tilt area, and further comprising zooming the selected camera when the cursor is in the zoom area, and panning and tilting the selected camera when the cursor is in the pan/tilt area.

17.   The method of Claim 12, and further comprising displaying a volume gauge for use in controlling speaker volume.

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18.   A method of controlling a video conference, comprising:

   displaying video generated at a remote camera on a display;

5   displaying a tool bar on the display, the tool bar including a plurality of icons representing video conference functions; and

   positioning a cursor on a selected one of the icons and initiating the video conference function

10   corresponding to the selected icon.

19.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the tool bar is displayed after positioning the cursor on a gateway icon.

15   20.   The method of Claim 18, and further comprising positioning the cursor on the displayed video and panning, tilting, and zooming video from the remote camera based on the cursor's position.

20   21.   The method of Claim 18, and further comprising:
   displaying an object icon on the display;
   moving the object icon onto the displayed video; and
   transmitting to a video conference platform data represented by the object icon.

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   22.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the tool bar includes a speaker icon for use in controlling a speaker's volume.

30   23.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the tool bar includes a microphone icon for use in selecting among a plurality of microphones.

24.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the tool bar includes a configuration icon for use in presenting configuration choices allowing for configuration of a video call.

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25.   The method of Claim 24, and further comprising selecting from among the configuration choices a rate at which video conference data will be transferred between video conference participants.

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26.   The method of Claim 18, and further comprising changing the icons of the tool bar.

27.   The method of Claim 26, wherein changing comprises customizing the tool bar by a user.

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28.   The method of Claim 27, wherein customizing can occur before, during, and after a video conference.